

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 03582 220901Z

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ACTION NODS-00

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FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9712

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 3582

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FOR SECRETARY FROM BROWN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: LANS, PINT, LE

SUBJECT: SYRIANS INFORM JUMBLATT THAT FRANGIE WILL RESIGN

1. JUMBLATT'S PRINCIPAL DEPUTY, ABBAS KHALAF, INFORMED EMBOFF EVENING APRIL 21 THAT, FOLLOWING DISCUSSION IN DAMASCUS BETWEEN ASSAAD AND FRANGIE REPRESENTATIVES, JUMBLATT HAD BEEN CONTACTED BY ASSAAD'S OFFICE TO INFORM HIM THAT FRANGIE WOULD SIGN THE PRESIDENTIAL AMENDMENT APRIL 22 AND THAT ELECTIONS COULD TAKE PLACE APRIL 27, ONCE FRANGIE REPRESENTATIVES RETURN TO LEBANON, THEY ARE EXPECTED TODAY) WE SHALL TRY TO CHECK THIS INFORMATION OUT, BUT WILL KNOW ONE WAY OR THE OTHER SHORTLY IN ANY EVENT.

2. KHALAF CLAIMS THAT THE CAIRO AGREEMENT WILL BE RESPECTED. HE ALSO CLAIMS THAT THERE WERE NO SECRET AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE SYRIANS AND THE PALESTINIANS. (WHEN ASKED ABOUT CONFIDENTIAL UNDERSTANDINGS ORALLY UNDERTAKEN, RATHER THAN SIGNED SECRET AGREEMENT, KHALAF WAS LESS DEFINITE, BUT STATED THAT NOTHING DONE TO AFFECT MARONITE POSITION.)

3. KHALAF IS OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE SITUATION IF THE AMENDMENT IS ACTUALLY SIGNED. ON THE OTHER HAND, HE FEARS EVERYTHING WILL BECOME COMPLETELY UNSTUCK IF FRANGIE CONTINUES TO PROCRASTINATE. CONCERNING FRANGIE, KHALAF INFORMED THAT U.S. OPPOSED TO ANY DELAY ON FRANGIE'S PART IN SIGNING CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT AND GETTING ON WITH ELECTION OF NEW
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